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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Policies and programmes involving youth

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/103 of 14 December 1990. It provides a brief overview of the situation of youth, highlighting various critical and emerging issues concerning young people. It also provides an analytical conspectus of the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth (A/40/256, annex), describing progress achieved and obstacles encountered at all levels. It is based on available data and information received from Member States, United Nations bodies and agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

II. THE SITUATION OF YOUTH

2. The global youth population numbered 1,012 million in 1990. 1/ The youth population in the developed countries was 179 million, while in the developing countries the figure was 833 million. The global youth population is projected to be 1,028,172,000 in 1995 (17.8 per cent of the total population), 1,066,879,000 in the year 2000 (17.2 per cent) and by the year 2025, 1,360,160,000 (16 per cent).

3. In certain countries of Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Western Asia, the illiterate population exceeds 50 per cent of the total population, particularly among women. 2/ The least developed countries are likely to fall short of universal primary education by the the year 2000. In most developed countries, decades of universal primary education have led to near-universal literacy for young people. In addition, the proportion of youth in universities of developed countries has increased from less than one fourth in 1965 to more than one third at present. 3/

4. In the last several years, equality between female and male students has been a matter of concern, especially regarding the relative enrolment of girls and boys in second- and third-level education. On average, females receive only half of the higher education of males. 4/ Yet, even with improved access, girls still face a number of disadvantages and often opt for types of education that entail later vulnerability in life, especially in the job market.

5. The problem of youth unemployment and underemployment, a common feature in many developing and developed countries, has worsened in recent years. In the countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) alone, the rate of youth unemployment is 13 per cent and rising. 3/ The least developed countries are worst hit by this problem, compounded by stagnant economies, illiteracy and lack of skills. In many countries, the influx of young people to the employment market is problematic, necessitating the creation of millions of new jobs to absorb the growing number of young people in the economically active populations of developing countries.

6. World-wide figures show a higher economic participation rate for young men than young women. However, in developed countries, there has been an overall trend to close that gap. In terms of the composition of the labour force aged 15-24, there has been significant progress to equalize the economic participation rates of young men and women. 5/ Most developing countries have recorded unequal economic participation rates between young women and young men. Young women tend to experience much greater difficulty than young men in obtaining employment and, as a result, their unemployment rates are at least twice as high.

7. There are problems affecting the health and well-being of adolescents. These include problems of nutrition, sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, alcohol consumption, drug abuse and narcotic dependence, smoking, early marriages, teenage pregnancy and induced abortion. The problems of chronic diseases and disability are also widespread.

8. Rates of drug abuse are higher among youth than among adults. 6/ More and more youth are using a greater variety of psychoactive substances and at younger ages than before. In South America, the first illicit drug tried by young people is coca paste. In Asia, it is usually opium. In many industrialized countries, cannabis is the first and the most commonly used illicit substance. Barbiturates are abused in many African countries. In some parts of the Middle East and East Africa, khat is widely used by young people. Certain substances, such as heroin, cocaine, barbiturates and amphetamines, appear to be available in urban areas all over the world.

9. World-wide consumption of alcoholic drinks by young people has been increasing, as are alcohol-related mortality rates among youth. The problems stemming from excessive drinking include not only alcohol-induced morbidity and mortality, but also accidents at home, at work and on the roads, and violence and crime. In some countries, alcohol-related accidental death is the major killer of young people. Mortality rates due to alcohol-related motor-vehicle accidents are causing concern in many developing countries, particularly in some countries of South America and South-East Asia. 7/

10. The rising incidence of juvenile delinquency in many countries has been precipitated by certain socio-economic problems often associated with development. 8/ These include poverty, rapid population growth, inadequate shelter and housing, industrialization, urbanization, youth unemployment and underemployment, breakdown of the family unit, erosion of traditional values, weakening of community support systems, inadequate provision of social services and the inability of the education system to respond to new challenges. In the developing regions, juvenile delinquency, primarily an urban problem, is on the increase. The principal offences committed by young people are theft, robbery, smuggling, prostitution, drug abuse and drug trafficking. These offences are often attributed to hunger, poverty, malnutrition and unemployment. In developed countries, despite increased prosperity and the availability of consumer goods, juvenile delinquency has also increased. This is attributed to, among other things, the lack of sufficient parental supervision, resulting from the erosion of family ties, broken homes, social neglect and marginalization.

11. A large proportion of rural youth do not yet enjoy the benefits of full participation and integration in the social and economic sectors of their countries because of unequal or inadequate access to opportunities. Illiteracy rates among rural young people are still high in several developing countries where broad access to education and training has not become a reality. While some progress has been achieved, educational reform has not kept pace with the needs of rural young people. As more and more young people acquire the requisite qualifications for jobs, the number of these jobs does not increase proportionately. Because of the numerous problems found in rural areas, particularly poverty, many young people migrate to urban areas in search of better employment conditions. A glittering illusion has been built up about opportunities in the urban areas for the rural poor. In reality, for these young people, rural-urban migration brings with it added insecurity, rootlessness and frustration.

12. Since the late 1980's active youth participation has brought about pronounced changes worldwide. In Central and Eastern European countries, traditional youth structures have been replaced by a great number of new youth organizations. Even though efforts to form integrated structures at the national level have not yet been very successful, the political participation of youth has broadened in those countries. In Africa, Asia and Latin America, youth concerns centred on economic disparities and democratic political reforms. In the market-oriented developed countries, youth movements reflected a broad range of functional interests (environment, human rights, peace, employment, multi-party democracy, migrants, young women, university reform, etc.).

III. TREND ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER PLANNING AND SUITABLE FOLLOW-UP IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH

13. In the previous chapter, the overview presented of the situation of youth in the contemporary world reveals the prevailing vulnerability of young people in society, with the improvement of their situation tenuous, their needs and aspirations still unmet and their integration into the development process marginal. There are evident reasons for this, some extraneous. The existing distribution of global opportunities, which offer inadequate resources to developing countries, and the total external debt of many developing countries, which blocks much-needed expenditure on human resources development, have necessitated retrenchment and prioritizing at the expense of youth programmes and policies. These two salient factors have encouraged the marked decline in government enthusiasm and disposition, particularly in developing countries, towards implementing the guidelines (A/40/256, annex).

14. However, a fundamental factor, which had a negative effect on policy formulation and implementation for youth, was that integrated planning for youth has not taken hold, in spite of the awareness generated. The planning process has not been effective owing to (a) the prevailing narrow concept of development, which favours the economic dimension over the social one; and

(b) the often serious differences in social policies, which tend to be sectorally fragmented and have a high degree of dispersion. Essentially, in many countries, planning for youth is still not undertaken in an integrated, multisectoral and coordinated manner, in spite of real achievements. The paragraphs below illustrate this general trend.

A. At the national level

15. A main trend in recent years has been the steady evolution of the concept of youth in the last decade, highlighting youth as a positive social force in society. Indeed, there has been a corresponding social recognition of this by Member States, which has kept pace with the mechanisms of the articulation process. There now exists a definite concept of youth based upon the assertion that youth constitutes a social group with its own specific identity, needs and problems.

16. It appears that in a number of countries the category of youth has been given emphasis in national development plans. However, this has been offset by the fact that youth programmes still garner a very small proportion of government allocations. In the context of many national youth policies, the result has been a weak linkage between general aims and principles on the one hand and specific programmes of action on the other.

17. Another major trend is the re-examination of the three basic themes of the International Youth Year, 1985: Participation, Development, Peace. This has led to an extensive evolvement of each theme, viewing them as processes and dynamic concepts to underline the pivotal role of youth in society as well as society's obligations to youth. While the articulation of these International Youth Year themes has engendered awareness-building initiatives and measures, the problems of operationalizing them, for policy formulation and implementation purposes, into specific programmes and projects, have been very difficult, particularly in the light of the rapid socio-economic and political changes prevalent in the contemporary world.

18. The strategy for the International Youth Year, as elaborated by the Guidelines (A/40/256, annex), recognized the need to establish appropriate coordination mechanisms within each country to encourage the integration of youth issues into overall national development planning. Numerous Governments created ministries, councils, department secretariats and offices, in most cases located at a high level of government authority, to advocate and implement national youth policies. However, these mechanisms have lacked the necessary technical and financial support. During the International Youth Year national coordination committees were created for the principal purpose of preparing for and observing the event. Once the Year ended, many were disbanded. Not adequately emphasized was their important role in securing the effective integration of youth policies into development planning.

19. In those countries where a national coordination mechanism exists, their impact has been minimal. This has been due in large part to the lack of

articulation or delineation of the range of functions they perform (participation in the formulation of policies and plans; monitoring progress; implementing programmes; research and data collection; training; advocacy and serving as international focal points). Other factors that have hampered such structures are, (a) inadequate intersectoral coordination between departments; (b) insufficient planning; (c) paucity of financial and human resources; and (d) lack of adequate staff and training.

20. Many Governments have recognized the need for developing the elements of a national youth policy through such measures as (a) surveys to identify the needs and expectations of youth; (b) strategies, policies, plans and programmes; (c) legislative and administrative measures; (d) allocating some resources; and (f) identifying responsible actors. However, such achievements have been mitigated by a dispersion in the implementation process, leading to an insufficient integration of the various efforts made. As yet, youth policies and programmes have not been adequately reflected in overall development planning.

21. One evident trend is the recognition that a youth policy necessitates taking into account a variety of situations and needs of sub-categories of youth. In this regard, national efforts have been made to improve such knowledge. Research, studies and surveys in specific areas have been conducted. However, lack of sufficient data - scattered and inadequately coordinated between the agencies generating them - continues to hinder the proper development of youth policies and programmes. Moreover, while countries have compiled and updated indicators and data available (through population and theme-specific censuses, sample surveys and records), qualitative information and indicators concerning perceptions, attitudes and aspirations are in general scarce.

22. Innovative measures have been undertaken in the field of education and training. New approaches to non-formal education have been developed, for example, incorporating skill-training components in traditional out-of-school programmes. A number of Governments have also taken steps to secure continuous growth in the levels of education and the provision of apprenticeship and vocational training. However, facilities and opportunities in many countries remain totally inadequate or have deteriorated throughout the 1980s and early 1990s in conditions of economic crisis and fiscal constraint. Large numbers of young people leave formal education ill-equipped to cope with the world of work and with the pressures of a changing society. Irrelevance of education to employment and the lack of educational opportunities for young women, young migrants, refugees and disabled youth are problems that need to be tackled. Educational reform has often not kept pace with rapid social, economic and technological changes that are taking place.

23. Employment schemes for school-leavers or unemployed youth have been set up in many countries. Several Governments have improved employment services for young people, including information and counselling. Others have promoted active youth participation in decisions concerning youth employment activities. However, special measures for the creation of employment,

particularly self-employment of young people, are few and far between, with employment promotion for and recreational training of disadvantaged youth groups still requiring particular attention.

24. There is more awareness that the health problems of young people encompass a wider range of issues than previously perceived. This awareness has led many Governments to (a) promote legislative provisions on a range of adolescent health issues; (b) provide adequate health care, including training and educational programmes for young people; and (c) initiate programmes and projects focusing on youth participation in health education, sanitation, nutrition, family life education and maternal and child care. However, progress in this regard has been hindered by a lack of human and financial resources. Also, comprehensive policies, legislations and programmes on adolescent health have remained inadequate.

B. At the regional level

25. This section deals solely with the United Nations regional economic commissions and their role in the implementation of the guidelines (A/40/256, annex).

26. During the preparations for and observance of the International Youth Year, the programme for the Year at the regional level was carried out by the regional economic commissions. In 1983, in accordance with mandates established by the General Assembly, five regional preparatory meetings for the Year were convened. Each of these regional meetings stressed the situation of youth in the respective region. They also developed and adopted regional plans of action for youth, which served as models for national plans of action, as well as focusing and directing youth activities at the regional level. The regional plans of action constituted each region's specific contribution to the guidelines (A/40/256, annex).

27. During the period of the Year, regional economic commissions assumed an important role in fostering regional cooperation on youth issues. They helped to share experiences among various Governments and organizations within their respective regions. They undertook action-related research and studies, provided advice to Governments, and disseminated information through publications and meetings, at the regional and subregional levels. Moreover, they strengthened relationships with bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations through the exchange of information, the organization of subregional and regional meetings on youth and the fielding of missions.

28. The follow-up period to the Year witnessed a decline in momentum and a decrease in activities related to the Year on the part of the regional commissions. A major reason was the retrenchment exercise of the Organization, engendering throughout the System a 15 per cent reduction of resources in relation to levels prevailing during the period from 1980 to 1985. These mandated reductions considerably affected the capacity of the regional commissions to respond effectively to the social agenda in general

and to youth concerns in particular. The decrease in youth-related activities of the regional commissions was further aggravated by the lack of regular budget resources and the shifting of priorities to other concerns.

29. Both of the above reasons led to the amalgamation of youth programmes within social development programmes, de-emphasizing the singularity of the youth components and diverting much-needed resources to other social programmes. This was particularly the case with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), whose youth programmes were amalgamated with other programmes, thus invariably affecting their response to youth needs in their respective regions. Indeed, in the African and Western Asia regions, youth concerns have been given more prominence, by default, by two non-United Nations inter-governmental organizations, the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States respectively. The youth programmes of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), while also hindered by similar constraints, fared marginally better. This is perhaps due to a more enhanced record of long-standing regional cooperation in the youth field, and the existence of already established inter-agency and non-governmental organizations mechanism in those two regions, which helped to sustain them.

30. The net effect has been that the youth work of the regional commissions has been considerably hampered. Consequently, the implementation of both the regional plans and the guidelines (A/40/256, annex) seems to be affected.

C. At the international level

31. During the period of the International Youth Year and its follow-up, youth-related activities undertaken by the United Nations System were wide-ranging, highlighting the main existing and emerging youth issues and promoting possible solutions. This was facilitated by the greater awareness of youth concerns in the governing bodies of several United Nations organizations, as well as new mandates and resolutions initiated by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development.

32. Five basic approaches were emphasized by the United Nations system: (a) providing technical assistance to Governments, at their request, to formulate, implement and evaluate national youth policies and programmes; (b) preparing action-oriented multisectoral reports and studies on the situation and needs of youth; (c) organizing meetings, seminars and workshops on major youth-related topics, in cooperation with Governments and non-governmental organizations; (d) strengthening channels of communication to promote youth participation in development activities; and (e) strengthening system-wide cooperation through the informal inter-agency technical working group under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (see A/41/578, A/42/595, A/43/601, A/44/387 and A/45/422).

33. There have been many initiatives and developments, particularly those individual actions on the part of concerned United Nations agencies and organizations to promote topics within their fields of competence. However, since the high point of the International Youth Year in 1985, a gradual and downward trend at the international level in youth activities has become apparent. This is due to various factors, such as:

(a) The current financial crisis confronting the United Nations system which has affected the capacity of the agencies and organizations to respond adequately to the numerous requests of Governments. This has circumscribed the effective expansion of technical cooperation activities at the field level. With respect to the Secretariat, the severe resource constraints led to the loss of the post of Interregional Adviser on Youth Policies and Programmes in 1990, thus weakening the capacity for effective policy formulation and implementation at the country level.

(b) As with the regional commissions, a major downward trend at the international level has been the curtailing of the expansion of youth programmes reflected in the reduction of regular staff, the shifting of programme priorities and the decrease in direct operational support at the field level.

(c) The nature of youth work is multisectoral, whereas most United Nations organizations operate and are organized along sectoral lines. While the many positive initiatives and work of the organizations and bodies have encouraged advocacy on behalf of youth, there is a tendency to compartmentalize responsibility for youth activities into separate and specific sectors, departments and ministries, thus working against a comprehensive and coordinated approach to youth development. A salient example of this fragmentation is the support services given by the concerned United Nations agencies and bodies to multi-level entries to the national level, thus hindering the effective functioning of a national coordination mechanism to integrate youth concerns into the "mainstream" of development planning.

34. The recognition of the need to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to youth issues within the United Nations system led to the creation of the informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth in 1981. It served as a coordination mechanism during the preparatory work for the year and it is currently contributing to the follow-up. The informal inter-agency working group convenes under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. It includes substantive officers responsible for the youth programmes of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Volunteers and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Since 1981, it has been effective in exploring ways and means to promote activities in the context of the guidelines (A/40/256, annex). Inter-agency cooperation and

coordination has engendered more critical youth research, more technical cooperation and advisory services to Governments and fruitful bilateral cooperation among field-level personnel. There has been a considerable expansion of information and promotional activities.

35. The informal inter-agency working group is the most widely used mechanism in the United Nations system for the coordination of activities in the field of youth. It proved to be a particularly important tool for encouraging widespread participation in the preparation and observance of the International Youth Year.

36. However, effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination have been hindered, particularly during the period after the Year. This is because inadequate resources have engendered more focus on information exchange than on technical cooperation activities. Indeed, a contracted resource base has limited the scope of direct joint inter-agency operational support to Governments. There is a need, therefore, to strengthen linkages to take advantage of pooled resources. The Secretariat intends to discuss the above matters at the next inter-agency meeting, scheduled for February 1993, with the intention of finding ways and means to improve the situation.

IV. CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

37. As a vital link in the process of continued advocacy on behalf of youth, channels of communication have improved, particularly as the International Youth Year and its follow-up engendered a new phase in the growth and evolution of channels. Since 1985, that phase has encompassed specific objectives, established mechanisms, specific guidelines and defined needs. There has been more focus by youth organizations and the United Nations system on a number of specific, relevant and emerging youth issues and appropriate approaches have been examined in order to reach different categories of young people. Activities have been undertaken to promote collective communication between the United Nations system and youth organizations.

38. At the national level, non-governmental youth organizations are represented in national coordination committees in various countries and participate in the formulation and implementation of youth programmes and projects. At the regional level, several activities to reinforce channels of communication between non-governmental organizations and youth organizations and various organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have been taken. Among the regional commissions, ESCAP and ECLAC have brought together regional youth non-governmental organizations for discussions on issues of mutual concern. Both regional commissions continue to provide substantive support to regional groupings of non-governmental organizations. At the global level, international youth organizations facilitated the world-wide exchange of ideas, experiences, information and partnership among their constituencies. They have provided guidelines and resources for programmes at all levels. the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs UNESCO, ILO, FAO, WHO, the United Nations Volunteers and UNICEF have provided

substantive support to various international non-governmental organizations in specific sectoral areas. Focus has been on such areas as health, family life education, formulation of integrated youth policies, the United Nations youth programme, literacy, youth exchanges and so on.

39. Structures that facilitate direct and representative consultations between youth organizations and the United Nations have increased. Many international non-governmental youth organizations have established contacts and relations with the United Nations and its agencies pursuant to procedures set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), entitled "Arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations".

40. With regard to United Nations publications, numerous reports and studies have been published and disseminated to youth organizations providing technical information on specific topics. In addition, information conveyed by the United Nations has frequently been mandates and summaries of the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, reports of the Secretary General, reports and findings of United Nations agencies and bodies, as well as data on field projects and related programmes. For their part, youth organizations have disseminated to the general public, to their constituencies and to the United Nations system, reports and studies on a wide range of youth-related issues. Education, human rights, apartheid and peace are among the issues emphasized. They have also focused, in their publications, on improving existing channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations.

41. Messages transmitted through the channels on the work of the United Nations system of relevance to youth organizations and vice versa have also expanded since 1985. Many initiatives have been taken by youth organizations in this regard through meetings, research and informational campaigns. One major message transmitted by youth organizations is their constructive critique of existing channels. By and large, more channels for youth participation in the policies and programmes of the United Nations system, more younger people in the national delegations to the United Nations bodies and the Secretariat, and greater recognition by the United Nations of the political role of youth are suggested remedies.

42. Notwithstanding the above-mentioned improvements and achievements, numerous problems remain, hindering the effective functioning of channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. Some major problems are cited below:

(a) The current international climate, characterized by diminished international tensions and reduced ideological confrontation, has increased scope for international cooperation in youth work. This has resulted in a proliferation of consultative platforms between international youth organizations and individual organizations. Paradoxically, this has made linkages between national and international youth organizations more tenuous, complicated the dispersal of financial resources and rendered information exchange and joint non-governmental organization/United Nations collaboration more difficult.

(b) While some international youth non-governmental organizations have availed themselves of the three categories of consultative status, their number is limited. Currently, there are approximately fifty international youth and youth-related non-governmental organizations that have one of the three types of consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and with UNESCO. There are six main youth non-governmental organization consultative platforms vis-à-vis the United Nations system: the Geneva Informal Meeting of the International Youth NGOs; the United Nations Headquarters NGO Committee on Youth; the Vienna NGO Committee on Youth; the UNESCO Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs; the UNICEF Youth NGO Consultative Group; and the World Tourism Organization's NGO Working Group on Youth Tourism. While there is some interaction between and among themselves, the scope of communication and networking has been minimal to date.

(c) While regional youth non-governmental organizations have been active at the regional and subregional levels, as yet they have not expanded their activities vis à vis the United Nations system. Thus, regional channels of communication are weak. Moreover, with the exception of ECLAC and ESCAP, regional economic commissions have not established platforms for national and regional youth non-governmental organizations. Consequently, collaboration on joint projects in their respective regions has been meagre.

(d) The majority of national youth and student non-governmental organization coordinating bodies do not regularly or even directly participate in any of the existing international youth platforms referred to above. In fact, they have been largely overlooked as a viable non-governmental organizations partner for the United Nations system at the national level.

(e) While the two-way flow of information has facilitated consultations, inquiries about the attitudes of young people towards the United Nations have received inadequate coverage in United Nations publications. Such inquiries and studies would assist in redefining the conceptual and operational framework of channels of communication and improving the consultation process.

V. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

43. The tenth anniversary in 1995 of the International Youth Year provides an opportunity for more active and continued advocacy on behalf of youth. It is predicated on the basic assumptions - gleaned from experience since 1985 - that the situation of youth has not adequately improved and that planning for youth is still not an integral component of development plans. Thus, the preparations for the tenth anniversary provide a suitable occasion to improve the situation through extensive review and evaluation of actions, the development of effective capacities for youth programming and implementation at all levels and the formulation of a realistic and pragmatic world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, shifting emphasis to action-oriented youth work within a specific time-frame. A calendar or programme of activities at national and international levels will encourage cooperation and coordination.

44. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which serves as the focal point for youth matters within the United Nations system, has already begun preparing for the tenth anniversary. A summary of those activities appears below:

(a) Views and proposals on the draft world youth programme of action were solicited in 1991 from Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies, and non-governmental youth and youth related organizations. The eighth meeting of the informal inter-agency working group on youth at the technical level (Vienna, 30 and 31 May 1991) and the Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Vienna, 27-29 May 1991) provided opportunities for both concerned United Nations bodies and non-governmental youth organizations to contribute suggestions and ideas.

(b) Consequently, a detailed outline of a draft world youth programme of action was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/360).

(c) Taking into account the deliberations of the General Assembly on that topic, the first preliminary draft of the action programme was elaborated by a Consultative Meeting of Experts convened by the Youth Policies and Programmes Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs at Vienna, from 9 to 13 December 1991. The meeting was attended by a selected number of international specialists on youth. The draft, inter alia, provides a global orientation and direction for the action programme; focuses on the six priority areas (education, employment, hunger, health, environment and drug abuse), identified by the General Assembly resolution 45/103. The draft is currently being circulated to Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies and the non-governmental organization sector. On the basis of replies received, a consolidated draft will be prepared for submission to the thirty-third session of the Commission for Social Development in 1993.

(d) Specific actions are being taken to provide broad coverage on the tenth anniversary through the Youth Information Bulletin, the United Nations Youth Newsletter, as well as a series of information circulars and correspondence.

45. During 1993 and 1994, the Secretariat will focus on:

(a) Further refinement of the draft world youth programme of action through deliberations of intergovernmental bodies, expert group meetings and consultations with organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

(b) Future ad hoc inter-agency meetings at the technical level will be devoted to preparing and implementing a practical programme of work for the tenth anniversary.

(c) Guidelines will be prepared to assist Governments in preparing a programme of action at the national and local levels.

(d) Regional commissions will be encouraged to promote the tenth anniversary through a series of specific activities approved by their intergovernmental bodies.

(e) Channels of communication with youth and youth-related organizations will be devoted to the preparations of the tenth anniversary. In this context, work relationships with umbrella youth organizations will be considerably improved on a partnership basis.

(f) In close cooperation with the Department of Public Information, specific informational activities will be developed and implemented at the international level, with particular emphasis at the national level.

46. In view of the above and cognizant of the need to improve the situation of youth through concerted actions aimed at enhancing the process of youth programming, implementation and evaluation at all levels, the General Assembly may wish to recommend that:

(a) Member States should prepare a national calendar for action (1993-1995) in the context of the preparation for the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace. Such a calendar of action should allow for adequate provisions for substantive, promotional and informational activities directed at the community and local levels.

(b) The level of high-level representation, in national coordinating committees, wherever they exist, should be raised. Where such a coordinating mechanism does not exist, the designation of a high political representation should be considered a prerequisite for its establishment and subsequent functioning.

(c) Member States are encouraged to transmit their national calendar of events to the Secretariat, which will compile the global calendar of events on the tenth anniversary.

(d) Regional commissions should formulate, for consideration by their governing bodies, a detailed programme of activities with adequate resource provisions.

(e) At the international level, all concerned United Nations bodies and agencies should incorporate appropriate activities within their respective work programmes for the commemoration of the tenth anniversary.

(f) A United Nations system-wide public information campaign should be launched in order to ensure that the potential value of the anniversary is fully realized.

Notes

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4/ Ibid., p. 14.

5/ Freedman, David H., "Special employment programmes in developed and developing countries", in International Labour Review, vol. 129, 1990, No. 2.

6/ "The Health of Youth: Facts for Action - Youth and Drugs", (A42/Technical Discussions/7) (Geneva, WHO, 1989).

7/ "The Health of Youth: Facts for Action - Youth and Reproduction Health", (A42/Technical Discussions/5) (Geneva, WHO, 1989).

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